



Wireless Notebooks

Buying a notebook PC that costs less than £600 including VAT no longer means having to compromise on quality, as these six superb budget laptops prove

Five years ago, if you wanted to buy a computer but didn't want to spend a lot of money, a desktop PC was your only choice. Notebooks were for business users and commanded corporate prices to match. But the growth of wireless networking in the home has created a new market for notebooks. With a laptop you can surf the web from your favourite armchair while keeping an eye on the kids.

This new consumer appeal has seen notebook sales for home use rocket and prices plummet.

IN THIS REVIEW

Acer Aspire 5002WLMi
Evesham Quest A220
Lenovo ThinkPad R50e UR0S6UK
Mesh Pegasus 370 CS
Toshiba Satellite L20-196
Watford Tiny Provision 2538

You can now get a notebook computer capable of taking on everyday tasks for less than £600 including VAT. We asked six manufacturers to submit just such a notebook for this group test and we received notebooks with a wide variety of features and specifications.

We spent weeks putting them all through a series of gruelling trials to find the best. We tested not only their performance but also their build quality and usability. So read on to find the ideal notebook for your needs and your wallet.



CHOOSING A... WIRELESS NOTEBOOK

A tight budget means you need to examine your priorities carefully, but you don't have to lower your standards. Our buying guide shows you what to look out for

With prices starting at under £500 including VAT, there are some real bargains to be had in this group test. Such low prices mean that none of the notebooks on test is perfect, though. Each has different strengths and weaknesses, and this guide will help you identify which notebook best suits your needs.

QUALITY OF BATTERY LIFE

You would expect your notebook to shrug off a few knocks and bumps in its life, so we give our test models a few simple trials to ensure they are tough enough for life on the move. Two notebooks stood out in this category. Lenovo's ThinkPad has little flex in its chassis and a tough, black plastic shell. The Evesham Quest is also tough, with the most rigid chassis in the group.

When you're out and about with your notebook you'll want to go several hours between recharges. We ran a low-usage battery test on all the notebooks, and you'll get similar results if you're working on an office document. Only two of the notebooks here managed to achieve our preferred three-hour battery life. Fortunately they were the same notebooks that impressed us in our toughness tests, making the ThinkPad and the Quest the best for life on the road.

POINTS OF VIEW

Even if you only use your notebook around the home, having a good, built-in pointing device is preferable to having to plug in a mouse. Curling up on the sofa to surf the web and send emails is a great reason to choose a notebook over a desktop, and touch pads are perfect in this situation.



Don't be too worried by inadequate memory. If the notebook has a free slot it can be easily upgraded

► Widescreen gloss displays (far right) are more suitable for watching DVDs, but they do suffer from distracting reflections



None of the keyboards here did badly in our tests. A couple stood out, though. The Lenovo ThinkPad has excellent key travel and feedback, while the Watford Provision has a chassis design that gives plenty of support while typing.

Some of the touch pads, such as Evesham's, were a bit small for our liking. The Acer Aspire had the best one, being both large and proportioned to match the display. The Aspire and Watford Provision have four-way buttons beneath their touch pads that work like the scrollwheels on desktop mice.

PAY AND DISPLAY

A good display will enhance everything you do with vibrant colours and clearly defined text. There are two types of display in our group this month. Four notebooks come equipped with a standard 1,024x768 resolution screen. These are good for most tasks, but complicated applications such as photo-manipulation packages may feel a little cramped.

Acer's Aspire and Evesham's Quest have widescreen displays. Not only are these better for watching widescreen videos such as DVDs, they also have a 1,280x800 resolution, so you'll have more desktop space for your applications.

We run the same image-quality tests on both types of display. Our white test showed up faults in Mesh's Pegasus and Watford's Provision, while Toshiba's Satellite and Evesham's Quest shone. The Acer Aspire is notable for its gloss coating, which improves the richness of colours, but suffers from increased reflections.

PORT OF CALL

All but one of our notebooks has three or four USB ports. This allows you to plug in a keyboard, mouse and other peripherals. The Lenovo ThinkPad is let down by its meagre pair of ports, forcing you to use a USB hub if you want to connect extra peripherals.

None of the notebooks here has a memory card reader. You'll have to use your digital camera's USB cable every time you want to transfer pictures.

ROOM TO GROW

It can be hard to judge how much storage you'll need. The smallest hard disks here are 40GB, which is more than enough for a mix of office, image and audio files. However, if you plan to keep large amounts of photos or music on your notebook, or do any video work, you'll need a larger hard disk.

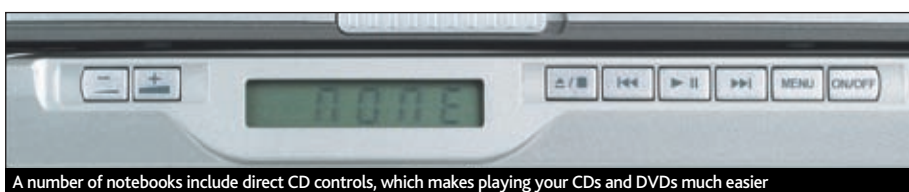
Even if you run short of space, you can always back up older files to CD or DVD. Most of the notebooks come with DVD writers that can write up to 4.7GB on an inexpensive single-layer disc. But the Evesham Quest and Lenovo ThinkPad have combo drives that write to CD only. This limits you to a maximum of 700MB of data per disc.

WHAT A PERFORMANCE

All the notebooks here manage day-to-day tasks such as office applications, surfing the web and email without a problem. If you plan to do only these kinds of undemanding tasks, you should make your decision on factors other than performance.

If, however, you plan to manipulate photos or edit videos, you'll need all the power you can get. In terms of overall performance there is little to split the top three in our tests. But look at the image and video test scores on page 162 and you can see that some shine in specific areas. Shortlist notebooks whose best scores match your probable workload.

The Lenovo ThinkPad lags well behind the rest of the group, but a simple and inexpensive upgrade could pull it into line with the others. See the review on the following page for more details.



A number of notebooks include direct CD controls, which makes playing your CDs and DVDs much easier



ACER Aspire 5002WLMi



RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £570 inc VAT

SUPPLIER Acer Notebooks 08701 670819

DETAILS www.acer.com

The Aspire is the most stylish notebook in the group, looking better than many costlier models we've seen. Its widescreen display makes it ideal for use around the home as a DVD player.

FEATURES

The Aspire's widescreen display is its main draw. The 1,280x800 resolution gives you more desktop space, it has a gloss coating that adds richness to colours and an inkiness to dark tones. It isn't quite as bright as we'd like, but our greyscale test showed smooth transitions. However, the gloss coating makes it unsuitable for use in a brightly lit office, due to increased reflections on the screen.

The large and accurate touch pad mirrors the shape of the display. Between the usual pair of buttons is a four-way scroll button, which mimics the scroll wheels on the latest mice.

The chassis is well built, with only a little flex. It isn't the toughest here, but that won't matter around the home. All the expected ports are present, including a trio of USB ports. There's a decent pair of speakers, which are clear and loud but lack bass. A 60GB hard disk and two-layer DVD writer will provide ample storage and backup capabilities.

PERFORMANCE

The Aspire notebook finished in the middle of the group with an overall *Shopper* benchmark score of 69. It could have scored better but its 4,200rpm hard disk with only 2MB of cache slowed it down in our image-manipulation test. It will still manage everyday computing tasks with ease though. Battery life was two-and-a-half hours, fine for occasional mobile use.

VERDICT

A great touch pad and display make the Aspire notebook ideal for use round the home, whether you're surfing the net or watching DVDs. It looks and feels well made and is more than capable of handling all your day-to-day computing tasks.



Glossy widescreen display; large touch pad



No TV-out socket

SPECIFICATIONS 1.6GHz AMD Turion ML30, 512MB RAM, 60GB hard disk, SIS M760GX integrated graphics, DVD+/-RW DL, 15.4" widescreen LCD



EVESHAM Quest A220

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £571 inc VAT

SUPPLIER Evesham 08701 609500

DETAILS www.evesham.com

The Acer notebook is well equipped for entertainment, with its widescreen display, remote control and three-hour battery life.

FEATURES

The A220's display has the same 1,280x800 resolution as the Acer Aspire. It lacks the gloss coating, but is very bright. This gives it a clear Windows desktop with great contrast. The bright screen also produced gorgeous, vibrant hues in our colour tests. The Labs team was split between those preferring the Quest's brightness and those favouring the Aspire's richness.

The silver chassis and grey keyboard don't match the Acer in looks, but the chassis is better, having no flex at all. The keyboard is firm and the keys are positive and springy. The touch pad is a bit of disappointment, though, as it isn't proportioned to match the widescreen display and the buttons click indistinctly when pressed.

The front of the chassis has a set of buttons that can be used to launch and control a media player. You can also boot the notebook into a disc-player mode, which lets you play CDs and DVDs without entering Windows. There's also a mini remote control in the CardBus slot, and the speakers are the best in the group.

Unfortunately, Evesham has scrimped on storage. The hard disk is 40GB, and there's only a combo drive, so you can't burn data to DVDs.

PERFORMANCE

Evesham's Quest came second overall in the *Shopper* application benchmarks, with good results in all the tests. Despite its large display it also lasted three hours in our battery tests, just behind the Lenovo ThinkPad, making it a decent choice for use on the road.

VERDICT

The Quest is one of the strongest contenders in the group. It has a great display and it performed well in all our tests. Only its storage lets it down and prevents it taking top honours.



Great display; solid chassis; good performance; decent battery life



Small hard disk; no DVD writer

SPECIFICATIONS 1.8GHz AMD Mobile Sempron 3000+, 512MB RAM, 40GB hard disk, SIS M760 integrated graphics, CD-RW/DVD combo, 15.4" widescreen LCD



LENOVO ThinkPad R50e UROS6UK

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £490 inc VAT

SUPPLIER www.laptopsdirect.co.uk

DETAILS www.lenovo.com/uk/en

The ThinkPad may be lacking in many areas, but great build quality and a very low price mean you shouldn't disregard it too quickly.

FEATURES

We see a ThinkPad almost every month at *Shopper*, but still can't agree on whether the angular black chassis is retro chic or just plain ugly. It's well built, however, and the sturdy black plastic will look better for longer than some silver finishes. USB ports are limited to two, though, so you'll need a hub to use a lot of peripherals.

The keyboard is the best in the group, with an easy action and lots of travel. There's no touch pad; instead there's a touch stick in the middle of the keyboard. This is just as effective once mastered. If you plan to do a lot of typing, the ThinkPad should be on your shortlist.

The screen displays the brightest white here. Unfortunately, the graininess of the display is particularly noticeable during video playback.

Storage is disappointing, with a small 40GB hard disk and combo CD writer/DVD drive. However, the notebook comes with Windows XP Professional, which is ideal for business users.

PERFORMANCE

The ThinkPad suffered badly in our benchmarks due to having only 256MB of RAM. This crippled it in our memory-intensive image-manipulation test. An upgrade to 512MB can be bought from www.crucial.com/uk for £21 including VAT. Even with this upgrade, the ThinkPad is the cheapest notebook here by almost £40. It came first in our battery test, running for over three hours, which, combined with the tough chassis, makes it an ideal business companion.

VERDICT

With a memory upgrade, the ThinkPad will easily manage any office task. Storage is limited, but this won't trouble office application users, and getting Windows XP Professional at such a low price means the ThinkPad is a good deal.



Very cheap; Windows XP Professional; decent battery life



Insufficient RAM; small hard disk; no DVD writer or TV-out socket

SPECIFICATIONS 1.4GHz Intel Celeron M 360, 256MB RAM, 40GB hard disk, Intel 855GME integrated graphics, CD-RW/DVD combo, 15" LCD



MESH Pegasus 370 CS

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £599 inc VAT

SUPPLIER Mesh Computers 08700 464747

DETAILS www.meshcomputers.com

On paper the Pegasus has a good specification and great application performance. However, in use it is far less appealing.

FEATURES

The slim black and silver chassis looks good, but it's not nearly as pleasing on the eye as the Acer Aspire. There are all the usual ports, including four USB ports to connect several peripherals. The keyboard is passable but lacks feedback, and the touch pad is equally mediocre; it's a little inaccurate and accompanied by wobbly buttons.

Things don't improve with the display. We test the brightness of a display by trying to bring up a white screen. The Mesh notebook failed this test, showing at best a greyish tone. Problems continued with banding in greyscale gradients and muted colours. This is the worst display here.

Inside the chassis are a 60GB hard disk and a two-layer DVD writer, so storage and backups won't be a problem. A two-year warranty is also provided, which is a year longer than the cover offered by the other manufacturers.

PERFORMANCE

The Pegasus came first in our application benchmarks and PCMark04. This is due to its fast 1.8GHz AMD Mobile Sempron 3000+ processor, which propelled it to the top of the group in our video-encoding test. The hard disk runs at only 4,200rpm, but it has a large 8MB cache on the disk, so it still scored well in our image-manipulation test.

The Pegasus's battery managed only two hours in our test, making it unsuited for use away from a power socket. Like all the notebooks in the group, the Pegasus is not capable of running modern 3D games.

VERDICT

There is a lot to like about the Mesh notebook, its warranty and performance in particular. But the display and input devices hold it back, resulting in a below-average score.



Fastest application performance



Worst display in the group; poor speakers

SPECIFICATIONS 1.8GHz AMD Mobile Sempron 3000+, 512MB RAM, 60GB hard disk, VIA UniChrome Pro integrated graphics, DVD+/-RW DL, 15" LCD



TOSHIBA Satellite L20-196

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £599 inc VAT

SUPPLIER www.johnlewis.com

DETAILS www.toshiba.co.uk

The Toshiba is the lightest and slimmest of the notebooks on test. Its poor battery life makes it unsuited to life on the road, however.

FEATURES

The Satellite has a simple and pleasing design, with a scratch-resistant black outer shell and silver inner shell. On the right-hand side is a DVD writer that supports two-layer formats and DVD-RAM. A pair of clear, but not particularly loud, speakers are set into the front, along with a useful wireless adaptor reset button. Ports are arranged along the left and rear of the notebook, and include three USB ports.

The keyboard has lots of feedback, though it flexes a little in use. The touch pad is accurate and has big buttons. There are four buttons above the keyboard for media playback in Windows. Inside the chassis is a 60GB hard disk.

The display is good, and produced a clean white in our tests. Further testing revealed bright colours and a smooth greyscale. It is the best of the non-widescreen displays here.

PERFORMANCE

Toshiba has opted to use a 1.5GHz Intel Celeron M 370 processor in this notebook. It gave a fair performance, but couldn't keep up with the faster AMD processors. Overall it managed 67 in our *Shopper* benchmarks, which is perfectly adequate for such day-to-day tasks as office applications and web browsing.

Toshiba has also included an ATI Xpress 200M graphics chipset. This puts it well ahead of the rest in 3D, but still incapable of playing the latest games. You'll be able to play older titles, though. Unfortunately, this additional 3D power reduces the battery life to a measly 100 minutes.

VERDICT

The Toshiba Satellite has no serious flaws as a budget notebook for use around the home or office but, everything considered, we'd rather have the Evesham Quest or the Acer Aspire.



Slimline and lightweight chassis



Slow Celeron M processor

SPECIFICATIONS 1.5GHz Intel Celeron M 370, 512MB RAM, 60GB hard disk, ATI Radeon Xpress 200M graphics, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 15" LCD



WATFORD Tiny Provision 2538

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £549 inc VAT

SUPPLIER Watford Electronics 08716 661616

DETAILS www.savastore.com

The Watford Provision has a decent set of components, but it lacks that something extra to make it stand out from the crowd.

FEATURES

We don't particularly like the brushed silver lid on the Watford notebook, but that's a matter of taste. More objectively, the display doesn't come up to our standards. It isn't as gloomy as the Mesh's screen, but still a touch grey when trying to display a pure white. Our other tests also suffered from a lack of brightness, causing muted colours. It's unsuitable for colour-sensitive work.

The keyboard and touch pad are both of much better quality. The touch pad is accurate and between the buttons is a four-way scroll button. The keyboard is solid with no flex. The keys have plenty of travel and good feedback. The chassis provides ample space to rest your palms when using it on your lap. There are four USB ports: two on the left and two on the back.

Inside the chassis is a DVD writer, which curiously has no support for writing two-layer discs. The 80GB hard disk is the biggest in the group and large enough for most users.

PERFORMANCE

The Provision did well in our application benchmarks, coming in third overall. Its fast 5,400rpm hard disk with an 8MB cache made up for having a slower processor than the Evesham Quest or Mesh Pegasus. This notebook is particularly well suited to storage-intensive tasks such as image-editing.

The Provision didn't fare as well in our low-usage battery test, running for under two hours, so we couldn't recommend it for use on the move.

VERDICT

The Watford Provision's chassis is solid, its input devices are good and it has a big hard disk. But this notebook is let down by its poor display, and so can't quite compete with the Acer Aspire or the Evesham Quest.



Big hard disk; good Windows performance



Poor display

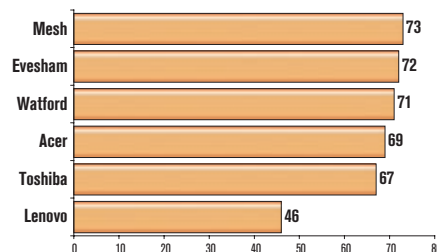
SPECIFICATIONS 1.6GHz AMD Mobile Sempron 2600+, 512MB RAM, 80GB hard disk, VIA UniChrome Pro integrated graphics, DVD+/-RW, 15" LCD



BENCHMARKS

2D Performance **Shopper application tests**

Overall



SETTINGS We run our application tests at 1,024x768 resolution and in 32-bit colour
WEB www.computershopper.co.uk

Video-Encoding Test

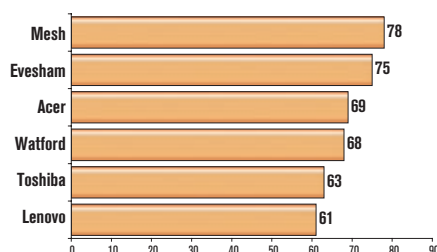
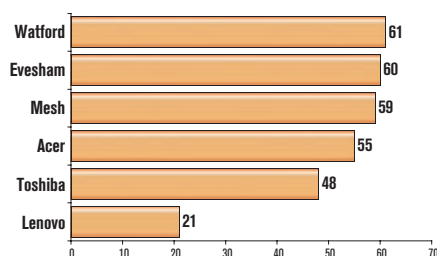


Image-Editing Test



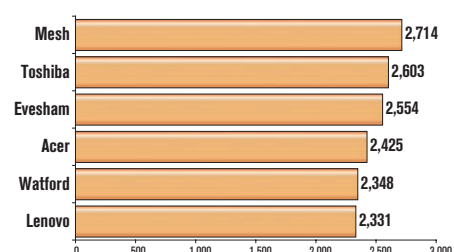
Computer Shopper's 2D benchmarks are designed to show how PCs stand up to the toughest tasks Windows can throw at them. Today's PCs have no problem running office applications such as Word and Excel, so we have chosen to focus our tests on areas where you could experience difficulties.

In version 1.0 there are three scripts. Encoding a short video to MPEG 2 format is an extremely processor-intensive task, and one that anyone interested in transferring home videos to DVD will have to tackle. Our image-editing test simulates a session of photo enhancement using Paint Shop Pro, culminating with the memory-intensive composition of a panorama from a set of digital snaps. Finally, a set of MP3s is generated by ripping an audio CD.

We compiled all the tests with the help of our sister magazine for performance computing, *Custom PC*. By tackling advanced tasks the tests will give you warning of any speed issues you could encounter. Figures are relative to a reference Evesham Athlon 64 3500+ system, which scores 100 in all tests.

PCMark04

PCMark04



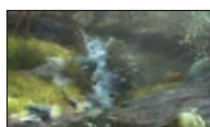
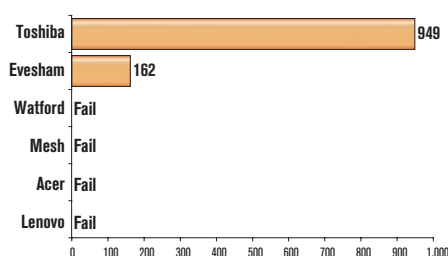
SETTINGS We run PCMark04 at 1,024x768 resolution and in 32-bit colour
WEB www.futuremark.com

As well as our own benchmarks, we test all desktop and notebook PCs using Futuremark's PCMark04. You can download a free version of PCMark04 from www.futuremark.com/download, so you can compare our results with those from your own computer. This is useful if you want to see how much performance you might gain by upgrading.

PCMark04 performs a variety of tests to measure system performance. These include testing the hard disk, memory, processor and graphics. All the tests mimic the stresses placed on your computer by actual applications, giving a fair indication of how powerful a PC is.

3D Performance **3DMark03**

3DMark03

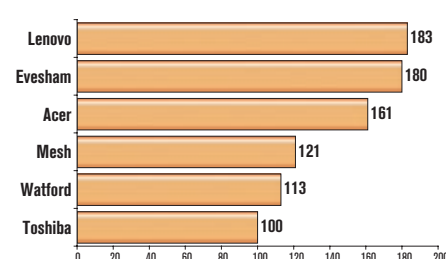


SETTINGS 1,024x768 resolution, 32-bit colour, default settings
WEB www.futuremark.com

3DMark03 comprises four game tests from four different genres. Each test involves real-time rendering of a 3D environment. 3DMark03 gives you a good idea of how well a PC will run games that are currently on the market. You can download a free limited version of 3DMark03 from the Futuremark website.

Portability

MobileMark2002 battery life (minutes)



LABS VERDICT **WIRELESS NOTEBOOKS**

Choosing a winner was a tough decision, as the best notebook for work on the road isn't the best for use around the home. We also had to assess the relative importance of performance and how pleasant a notebook is to use.

Despite having a widescreen display and remote control for media playback, Evesham's Quest A220 is a surprisingly good business notebook, feeling tough and providing decent battery life. It will be as entertaining around the home as it is useful on the road, and only its mediocre storage kept it from the top.

The Lenovo ThinkPad's specifications aren't anything special on paper, but it has great build quality and no-nonsense business styling. It's incredibly cheap, even with a memory upgrade, and comes with Windows XP Professional. It's a great choice for business users on the move.

However, our top prize goes to the Acer Aspire because it's perfect for use around the home. There's nothing missing from the specification, it looks stylish and has a great widescreen display. It's a worthy winner of our Best Buy award. **CS**

ACER Aspire 5002WLMi





MANUFACTURER	ACER	EVESHAM	LENOVO	MESH	TOSHIBA	WATFORD
Model	Aspire 5002WLMi	Quest A220	ThinkPad R50e UROS6UK	Pegasus 370 CS	Satellite L20-196	Tiny Provision 2538
Rating	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★★
Processor	AMD Turion ML30	AMD Mobile Sempron 3000+	Intel Celeron M 360	AMD Mobile Sempron 3000+	Intel Celeron M 370	AMD Mobile Sempron 2600+
Speed	1.6GHz	1.8GHz	1.4GHz	1.8GHz	1.5GHz	1.6GHz
Memory installed	512MB	512MB	256MB	512MB	512MB	512MB
Memory slots (free)	2 (0)	2 (1)	2 (1)	2 (1)	2 (1)	2 (0)
Max memory	2GB	2GB	2GB	2GB	2GB	2GB
BIOS	Phoenix	AMI	IBM	Insyde	Phoenix	AMI
Dimensions(HxWxD)	39x364x273mm	36x355x254mm	40x329x264mm	35x323x276mm	34x329x270mm	40x331x274mm
Weight	2.95kg	2.85kg	2.85kg	2.70kg	2.55kg	2.95kg
Sound	Realtek AC'97	Realtek AC'97	SoundMAX digital audio	Realtek AC'97	Conexant AMC Audio	Realtek AC'97
Pointing device	Touch pad	Touch pad	Touch stick	Touch pad	Touch pad	Touch pad
DISPLAY						
Screen size	15.4"	15.4"	15"	15"	15"	15"
Graphics adaptor	SiS M760GX integrated	SiS M760 integrated	Intel 855GME integrated	VIA UniChrome Pro integrated	ATI Radeon Xpress 200M integrated	VIA UniChrome Pro integrated
Graphics outputs	D-sub	D-sub, S-video	D-sub	D-sub, S-video	D-sub, S-video	D-sub, S-video
Graphics memory	128MB shared	32MB shared	64MB shared	64MB shared	64MB shared	64MB shared
Native resolution	1,280x800	1,280x800	1,024x768	1,024x768	1,024x768	1,024x768
STORAGE						
Hard disk (available)	60GB (55.9GB)	40GB (37.2GB)	40GB (37.2GB)	60GB (55.9GB)	60GB (55.9GB)	80GB (74.5GB)
Optical drive	DVD+/-RW DL	CD-RW/DVD combo drive	CD-RW/DVD combo drive	DVD+/-RW DL	DVD+/-RW +/-DL	DVD+/-RW
Optical drive speeds	8X DVD+R, 8X DVD-R, 4X DVD+RW, 4X DVD-RW, 2.4X DVD+R DL, 24X CD-R, 10X CD-RW, 8X DVD-ROM, 24X CD-ROM	24X CD-R, 24X CD-RW, 8X DVD-ROM, 24X CD-ROM	24X CD-R, 10X CD-RW, 8X DVD-ROM, 24X CD-ROM	8X DVD+R, 8X DVD-R, 4X DVD+RW, 4X DVD-RW, 2.4X DVD+R DL, 24X CD-R, 16X CD-RW, 8X DVD-ROM, 24X CD-ROM	8X DVD+R, 8X DVD-R, 4X DVD+RW, 4X DVD-RW, 2.4X DVD+R DL, 2X DVD-R DL, 5X DVD-RAM, 24X CD-R, 10X CD-RW, 8X DVD-ROM, 24X CD-ROM	8X DVD+R, 8X DVD-R, 4X DVD+RW, 4X DVD-RW, 3X DVD-RAM, 24X CD-R, 24X CD-RW, 8X DVD-ROM, 24X CD-ROM
Floppy disk	No	No	£49 inc VAT	£23 inc VAT	£29 inc VAT	£19 inc VAT
PORTS & EXPANSION						
USB2 ports	3	4	2	4	3	4
FireWire	No	No	No	No	No	No
Infrared port	No	No	No	No	No	No
Bluetooth	No	No	No	No	No	No
Networking	10/100 wired, 802.11b/g	10/100 wired, 802.11b/g	10/100 wired, 802.11b/g	10/100 wired, 802.11b/g	10/100 wired, 802.11b/g	10/100 wired, 802.11b/g
PC Card slots	1	1	1	1	1	1
Modem	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Legacy ports	No	No	Parallel	No	No	Parallel
Other ports	No	No	No	No	No	No
EXTRAS						
Carrying case	No	No	No	No	From £18 inc VAT	No
Direct CD control	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Operating system	Windows XP Home	Windows XP Home	Windows XP Professional	Windows XP Home	Windows XP Home	Windows XP Home
Operating system restore option	Recovery partition	Recovery CD	Recovery partition	Recovery CD and partition	Recovery CD	Recovery CD and partition
Software included	Acer Arcade, Norton AntiVirus 2004, CyberLink PowerProducer 2, NTI CD-Maker 7	Microsoft Works 8, Roxio Easy Media Creator 7, Bullguard Anti-Virus 5	Norton AntiVirus 2004, InterVideo WinDVD 5	Microsoft Works 8.5	Microsoft Works 8.0, Microsoft Office OneNote 2003, Sonic Record Now! 7.31, InterVideo WinDVD Creator 2 Platinum	Panda Antivirus Titanium 2004, Roxio Easy CD Creator Suite 7, CyberLink PowerDVD 5
Other standard accessories	None	Mini remote control	None	None	None	None
Optional extras	Extra battery £99 inc VAT	None	None	Car charger £29 inc VAT, extra battery £69 inc VAT	Extra battery £69 inc VAT	None
BUYING INFORMATION						
Company founded	1979	1983	1984 (as Legend)	1987	1985 (notebook division)	1972
Employees	6,000	418	19,000	275	Not disclosed	130
Tech support staff	150+	84	Not disclosed	42	Not disclosed	20
Tech support times	Mon-Fri 9am-5pm	Mon-Sat 9am-5.30pm	Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm	Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm	Mon-Fri 8am-6pm	Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 9am-1pm
Parts warranty	One year RTB	One year RTB	One year RTB	First year collect and return, second year RTB	One year collect and return international	One year onsite
Labour warranty	One year RTB	One year RTB	One year RTB	First year collect and return, second year RTB	One year collect and return international	First year onsite, second and third years RTB
Price inc VAT and delivery	£570	£571	£490	£599	£599	£549
Price ex VAT and delivery	£485	£486	£417	£509	£509	£467
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